

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for forming an optical device. The method includes providing a glass aggregate. Typically, the glass aggregate is a mixture of fine glass soot particles and coarser ground or milled glass powder. The glass particles are mixed with a liquid to form a slurry which is cast in a mold to form a porous pre-form. Subsequently, the porous pre-form is consolidated into a glass object by heating the pre-form at a relatively high temperature. The method of the present invention produces optical components having substantially no striae. As a result, scattering is substantially reduced when EUV light is reflected from a component produced from the optical blank.

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